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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-185

The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on http://www.amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to: ans-editor(a)amsat.org

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see: https://mailman.amsat.org/postorius/lists/ans.amsat.org/

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ANS-185 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 185
To: All RADIO AMATEURS
From: Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation
712 H Street NE, Suite 1653
Washington, DC 20002

DATE 2021 July 4

"Clean Sweep" on Satellites Possible in 2021 13 Colonies Event

The 2021 edition of the annual 13 Colonies special event is July 1, 2021-1300 UTC to July 8, 2021-0400 UTC. This year, a "clean sweep" (working stations in all 13 states that were the original 13 U.S. Colonies) is possible via satellite! Yes, one or more stations in each state have volunteered to be active on the satellites this year.

More info on 13 Colonies is at http://www.13colonies.us/ including information on the exchange, logging, individual state QSLs, and certificates. DXsummit is recommended for spotting, and many of the satellite ops are active on Twitter and self-spot there as well.

The special event stations will identify with special calls as follows:
K2A - New York
K2B - Virginia
K2C - Rhode Island
K2D - Connecticut
K2E - Delaware
K2F - Maryland
K2G - Georgia
K2H - Massachutsets
K2I - New Jersey
K2J - North Carolina
K2K - New Hampshire
K2L - South Carolina
K2M - Pennsylvania
WM3PEN - Philadelphia bonus station
GB13COL - Great Britain bonus station
TM13COL - France bonus station

[ANS thanks Steve Greene, KS1G (one of the K2B/Virginia activators) for the above information]

MIR-SAT1 Designated as MIRSAT-OSCAR 112 (MO-112)

On June 22, 2021, MIR-SAT1 was deployed from the International Space Station by JAXA. MIR-SAT1 is a project of the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council and carries a digipeater and camera experiment. Further information is available at https://spacemauritius.com.

At the request of the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council, AMSAT hereby designates MIR-SAT1 as MIRSAT-OSCAR 112 (MO-112). We congratulate the owners and operators, thank them for their contribution to the amateur satellite community, and wish them a long mission and continued success on this and future projects.

ANS thanks Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, AMSAT VP Operations / OSCAR Number Administrator, for the above information.

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The long-awaited summer camp for up to 30 hams aged 15 through 25 had been set to take place in June 2020, but it had to be rescheduled until summer 2021 because of COVID-19 pandemic concerns. The camp for young hams in the Americas took its cue from the summer Youngsters on the Air camps held for the past few years in various IARU Region 1 countries.

W8Y will be on the air as campers complete projects, between sessions, and during free time. Dedicated operating times on HF will be Monday, July 12, 0100 - 0330 UTC; Tuesday, July 13, 0000 - 0330 UTC and 1800 - 2130 UTC. Dedicated satellite station operating times will be Thursday, July 15, 1400 - 1700 UTC, and Friday, July 16, 1500 - 1700 UTC.

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact is currently set for either Wednesday, July 14, at 1503 UTC, or KM4BUN operates as K8O during YOTA Month 2020.

Thursday, July 15, at 1416 UTC. It will be streamed live on the Youth on the Air YouTube channel. The camp opening observance on Sunday, July 11, 2100 - 2230 UTC, will feature keynote speaker Tim Duffy, K3LR. The hour-long closing ceremony on Friday, July 16, will get under way at 1700 UTC. The YouTube channel will also feature a daily video highlighting the activities of the previous day.

ARRL and The Yasme Foundation donated project kits for the campers. X Tronics provided temperature-controlled soldering stations. The brochure on the Youth on the Air website includes more details about the camp. For additional information, contact Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG.

[ANS thanks ARRL for the above information]

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[ANS thanks Southgate ARC for the above information]

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<mycall>@<mycall>.com and I'll revise the announcement. This list was developed by comparing the ARRL .pdf listings for the two months. It's a visual comparison so omissions are possible. Apologies if your call was not mentioned.

Thanks to all those who are roving to grids that are rarely on the birds. They are doing a lot of the work!

[ANS thanks Ron Parsons, W5RKN, for the above information]

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the researchers. This shorter transportation time frame allows researchers to collect data with minimal sample exposure to gravity.

Dragon launched June 3 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy, arriving at the station a little less than 16 hours later. The spacecraft delivered more than 7,300 pounds of research investigations, crew supplies, and vehicle hardware to the orbiting outpost. Dragon's external cargo "trunk" carried six new ISS Roll-Out Solar Arrays (iROSAs), two of which Expedition 65 crew members Kimbrough and Thomas Pesquet, an ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut, installed during three spacewalks June 16, 20, and 25.

Some of the scientific investigations Dragon will return to Earth include:

 * Lyophilization-2 examines how gravity affects freeze-dried materials and could result in improved freeze-drying processes for pharmaceutical and other industries. Freeze-drying also has potential use for long-term storage of medications and other resources on future exploration missions.
 * Molecular Muscle Experiment-2 tests a series of drugs to see whether they can improve health in space, possibly leading to new therapeutic targets for examination on Earth.
 * Oral Biofilms in Space studies how gravity affects the structure, composition, and activity of oral bacteria in the presence of common oral care agents. Findings could support development of novel treatments to fight oral diseases such as cavities, gingivitis, and periodontitis.

Learn more about SpaceX missions for NASA at: https://www.nasa.gov/spacex

[ANS thanks NASA for the above information]

ARISS NEWS

Amateurs and others around the world may listen in on contacts between amateurs operating in schools and allowing students to interact with astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station. The downlink frequency on which to listen is 145.800 MHz worldwide.

Upcoming ARISS Contact Schedule as of 2021-07-01 04:30 UTC

Quick list of scheduled contacts and events:

TBD, Russia, direct via TBD
The ISS callsign is presently scheduled to be RSØISS
The downlink frequency is presently scheduled to be 145.800 MHz
The scheduled cosmotronaut is Pyotr Dubrov
Contact is a go for 2021-07-14 20:10 UTC

Watch for possible operation mode change sometime after ARRL Field Day. Exact date and time TBD but it will probably be after the week of 2021-07-12 to 2021-07-18.

The latest information on the operation mode can be found at https://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations.html

The latest list of frequencies in use can be found at https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html

[ANS thanks Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, one of the ARISS operation team mentors for the above information]

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AMSAT, along with our ARISS partners, is developing an amateur radio package, including two-way communication capability, to be carried on-board Gateway in lunar orbit.

Support AMSAT's projects today at https://www.amsat.org/donate/

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Hamfests, Conventions, Maker Faires, and Other Events

Want to see AMSAT in action or learn more about amateur radio in space?

AMSAT Ambassadors provide presentations, demonstrate communicating through amateur satellites, and host information tables at club meetings, hamfests, conventions, maker faires, and other events.

AMSAT Ambassador and ARRL registered instructor Clint Bradford, K6LCS, is certainly keeping busy! He reports a long list of completed online presentations. Think a 90-minute lively, informative, and fun “How to Work the Easy Satellites” Zoom presentation would be appropriate for your convention or club? Always includes are overviews of the ARRL, AMSAT, and ARISS … and pre-presentation questions are solicited and welcome. Send Clint an email or call!

Clint Bradford K6LCS
http://www.work-sat.com
909-999-SATS (7287)

[ANS thanks Paul Overn, KE0PBR, AMSAT Events page manager, for the above information]

Satellite Shorts From All Over

+ AMSAT is pleased to announce that the 39th Annual AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting will be held in late October at the Crowne Plaza Suites: MSP Airport - Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. The Crowne Plaza Suites is conveniently located adjacent to the American Blvd station on the Metro Blue Line, providing easy access to the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, downtown Minneapolis, and the Mall of America. The AMSAT Board of Directors will meet prior to the Symposium. Further details, including final dates, hotel reservation details, tours, and other events will be shared in the coming months. (ANS thanks the 2021 Symposium Committee for the above information)

+ D-Orbit, a European launch services company, has announced that they have launched the first "amateur" satellite from the nation of Kuwait. The launch was carried out on June 30 by a SpaceX Falcon 9 launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. The satellite, named “QMR-KWT” means “Moon of Kuwait”, translated from Arabic, appears to have been built commercially. It will transmit 9600 bps GMSK, as well as Morse ID of LZ0KWT, and a recording of the Kuwait National Anthem on 436.5 MHz. There is no record of international frequency coordination with the IARU. More information at https://www.orbitalspace.org/qmr-kwt (ANS thanks D-Orbit for the above information)

+ On the same June 30 SpaceX launch, which carried a total of 88 small satellites into orbit, was Painani-II, a 3U cubesat built by the University of the Mexican Army and Air Force. It will transmit telemetry, images, and AX25 packet on IARU-coordinated frequencies of 437.475 and 2410.300 MHz. (ANS thanks Spaceflight.com and IARU for the above information)

+ The ANS search engines have turned up myriad references to amateur satellites across the news media this week. Small town papers around the country picked up news releases from ham groups who were anxious to get the media contact bonus points added to their Field Day logs. It appears that many of these releases mention satellites for the "cool factor," even when no satellite operation actually took place. Misinformation was abundant in the published articles. But as they say, any publicity is good publicity! (ANS thanks Mark Johns, K0JM, for the above information)

+ The Mauritius Amateur Radio Society (MARS) is still anxious for telemetry reports from the MIR-SAT 1 satellite launched on June 22. MIR-SAT 1 transmits on 436.925 MHz and decoders are available for download at https://github.com/daniestevez/gr-satellites/blob/master/python/telemetry/mirsat1.py (Thanks to Daniel Estevez, EA4GPZ) or https://www.g0kla.com/pacsat/index.php (Thanks to Chris Thompson, AC2CZ). All received data should be uploaded to Satnogs.org, and award certificates may be received in exchange by applying to https://bit.ly/3qKyb0Q (ANS thanks Jean Marc Momple, 3B8DU, for the above information)

+ The first three "taikonauts" (as Chinese astronauts are often known) aboard China's Tiangong space station are enjoying a menu of more than 120 dishes. Meals include shredded pork in garlic sauce, kung pao chicken, black pepper beef, pickled cabbage and many more. The foods are usually solid, boneless, in small pieces and selected to meet the astronauts' personal tastes. CCTV also reports that astronauts use condiments such as pork sauce and Sichuan pepper sauce to help adjust to the temporary loss of sense of taste experienced in microgravity. The space agency also boasted that the station is equipped with a microwave oven, so that the crew can enjoy their food hot. (ANS thanks space.com for the above information)

+ Wally Funk, age 82, a pilot with more than 19,600 flight hours and best known as one of the "Mercury 13" group of women who passed NASA astronaut medical exams in the 1960s, will be on the first crewed New Shepard flight July 20, along with billionaire Jeff Bezos. NASA made no effort to fly the Mercury 13 women, and did not formally select any female astronauts until Sally Ride became the first American woman in space in June 1983. Funk will now be the oldest person yet to fly into space. (ANS thanks Spacenews.com for the above information)

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In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership in the President's Club. Members of the President's Club, as sustaining donors to AMSAT Project Funds, will be eligible to receive additional benefits. Application forms are available from the AMSAT Store.

Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at one-half the standard yearly rate. Post-secondary school students enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the student rate for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this status. Contact info [at] amsat.org for additional student membership information.

73 and Remember to help keep amateur radio in space,
This week's ANS Editor, Mark Johns, K0JM
k0jm at amsat dot org